

Project Name: Samastha Project
Agreement Type: *Unilateral (Cooperative Agreement)*
Duration: *Oct 2006-Sept 2011*
Geographic Scope: *Karnataka and selected coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh*
Technical Assistance Agencies: *EngenderHealth and PSI*
Implementing Agency: *University of Manitoba*

DESCRIPTION:

The Samastha project is one of three components under the umbrella of the \$49-million Enhance Project that supports the Strategic Objective-14 “Improved Health and Reduced Fertility in Targeted Areas of India” and the IR 14.2 “Increased use of prevention, and care and support interventions to prevent/mitigate HIV/AIDS.” The Samastha Project includes a comprehensive program of networked services for prevention, care and treatment through implementation, linkages and strengthening of public and private sector involvement. The activities are implemented through a consortium of NGO partners including; Karnataka Network of Positive People, St John’s Medical College, Swasti, Snehadaan, Myrada, Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement, Lepra Society and the Catholic Hospitals Association of Andhra Pradesh led by the Karnataka Health Promotion Trust with technical partnerships with EngenderHealth and PSI. The project works in close collaboration with Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) and Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society (APSACS).

KEY ACTIVITIES:

The main activities are outlined under the following components and primarily focus on prevention among high risk groups and vulnerable populations; community -based care, support and treatment including VCT services for adults and children; and capacity building and system strengthening.

- Implementation of targeted interventions with female commercial sex workers primarily in 9 rural districts of Karnataka, using peer outreach, provision of STI services, condom promotion and working with clients.
- Implementation of interventions with other vulnerable populations like youth and migrants including men with symptoms of STI, women and men with TB in 12 rural districts of Karnataka through behavior change programs that emphasize abstinence, being faithful and condom use messages.
- A community-based care and treatment program in entire Karnataka and 5 selected coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, that aims to improve access to and use of HIV- related services including VCTC services, increase coverage of programs that support orphaned and vulnerable children and enhance quality of clinical care for HIV, ART and TB management in the public and private sectors through the integrated network model that establishes linkages across the prevention to care continuum.
- Capacity building and institutional strengthening: The above prevention, care and treatment objectives are supported by establishing a system for building and maintaining capacity of local organizations, government institutions such as KSAPS and private sector. Resources created through the capacity building activities over the project period include establishment of five Regional Resource Training Centers (RRTCs), organization of regional supportive supervision teams and developing a cadre of district level counselors.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Rollout of comprehensive prevention , care and treatment projects across 3 cities and 12 districts of Karnataka
- Rural mapping of key populations across Karnataka and identification of more than 1,300 priority villages for intervention activities and start-up activities in these villages
- Comprehensive care and treatment projects across 12 districts in Karnataka and 5 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh providing palliative care to more than 7,000 individuals and 2000 children identified as orphaned and vulnerable.
- Design and implementation of a comprehensive individualized management information system and a system for monitoring and evaluation of outputs and outcomes.
- Technical assistance to the Technical Support Unit in Karnataka for strengthening the Karnataka State AIDS Control Society.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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